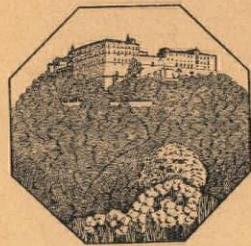


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# Journal of The American Institute of ARCHITECTS



MONTE CASSINO

April 1944

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A Visit to Monte Cassino

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The Bureau in Architecture

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Housing for Britain—I

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Hospital Design of Tomorrow

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Sir Edwin Lutyens, 1869-1944

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Our Birth Rate Stops City Growth

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Designing Single-Family Houses for Rent

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

JOURNAL OF  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

APRIL, 1944

VOL. I, No. 4

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The *Journal of The American Institute of Architects*, official organ of The Institute, is published monthly at The Octagon, 1741 New York Ave., N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Editor: Henry H. Saylor. Subscription in the United States, its possessions and Canada, \$3 a year in advance; elsewhere, \$4 a year. Single copies 35c. Copyright, 1944, by The American Institute of Architects. Entered as second-class matter February 9, 1929, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C.

# The Bureau in Architecture

By *A. Gordon Lorimer*

CHIEF, BUREAU OF ARCHITECTURE, CITY OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Experience over some years in the offices of Bertram Goodhue Associates, John Russell Pope, and Pelton, Allen & Collins, followed by work with the Triboro Bridge Authority and the Port of New York Authority prior to his present duties, gives Mr. Lorimer a background on both sides of this controversial subject.—EDITOR.

THE inception and growth of the Bureau in architecture has been a natural result of the steady increase in the number and magnitude of public projects—Federal, state, and municipal. The volume and complexity of large capital programs of construction demand an organization for unified control. What form should this control take—a purely “administrative” bureau or a “design” bureau?

A prime factor in favor of the Design Bureau in the execution of public structures is continuity of effort. Where no organized design unit exists, projects are of necessity isolated items executed independently by private architects. In this case, both the project and the architect are hampered by the following conditions:

The architect is retained for the execution of a specific requirement,

controlled by certain preconceived costs, and based on a program of requirements created by non-architectural bodies. Bound as he is by contract time and the restricted nature of the individual assignment, the architect rarely has the opportunity to produce a result which is not only integrated within its own parts but which in the broader sense is related and consistent with the other projects of the agency for which he is working. The mere economics of keeping his design expenditures within the fee normal to a single project will generally prevent him from going beyond the most obvious and literal execution of his contract.

This condition has, in the past, resulted in many large public institutions “growing like Topsy,” with each increment forming merely a temporary stop-gap. In such cases, the building require-

ments are usually formulated by lay groups, or in cases of hospitals, by medical groups who do not have the basic training in comprehensive planning to project an orderly growth for the institution.

The Design Bureau has both the opportunity and responsibility to plan with an overall viewpoint for a proper succession and relationship of individual projects.

In this regard, the Bureau may have to conduct extensive statistical or social research, and present for the consideration of proper civic or governmental authorities not merely attractive pictures of a projected project but a coherent presentation of (a) the need for the project, (b) its relationship to a long-range program of development, (c) the economies in terms of its use over a bond period of say 30 years, and (d) its budgetary requirements in operation and maintenance.

In a large city or governmental unit, consideration of certain of these factors is a primary responsibility of a planning or budgetary commission. It is, however, very difficult to assemble the requisite data for such consideration without a properly developed design unit, equipped to make comprehensive studies and building cost analyses.

This does not mean that there is no place for the private architect in the broader planning phases or individual project design of public works. What it does mean is that a central design body must exist, through which private architects, retained for broad or specific planning, can be most readily given the required basic data, and given such guidance as is necessary to assure consistency of policy both as to occupancy requirements and maintenance problems.



In private practice, the architect is apt to be too much absorbed in the quest for new work or the execution of current work to put much study into the occupancy or maintenance failures of his previous creations, unless they were frankly so bad that complaints developed. The Design Bureau, however, is often charged also with the repair and maintenance contracts for existing projects and is in a position to develop a well of experience which can be drawn on for the guidance of new projects. This cumulative experience is employed in formulating and guiding building programs and is the most valuable by-product of the bureau.

The private architect has claimed

that bureau work tends to be unimaginative, repetitive and over-standardized. This criticism has at times been justified, but much fine work of recent years, such as that of TVA, to mention only one agency, has demonstrated that the bureau has opportunities for the keen young professional man, and that total results show a consistency and integrity of purpose difficult of achievement on a completely decentralized individual design basis.

"Standards" are a convenient and necessary means of conveying assembled information and types to the retained architect. In a progressive bureau, however, it is essential that they be considered merely as the starting point for each new project, and that a constant objective be maintained toward improvement of the standard.



Countering the above criticism of "standardized bureau work," the Civil Service architects have been generally critical of the quality of contract documents prepared by the average private architect. This point is worthy of careful consideration by the whole profession. In private practice, the architect is generally dealing with a

personally selected group of contractors in whom he has confidence and who value his continued goodwill for consideration of future jobs. Often the drawings for bids are without details, these being made as the work progresses in construction.

In public bidding, where the award must go to the lowest competent bidder, the contractor often peruses the documents with a lawyer at his side looking for loopholes against which he can plan a future extra. The preparation of contract drawings and specifications becomes a highly developed kind of game in which the architect must forestall every possible evasion, and in which every single contractual instruction to the contractor must be clearly stated. In the well-run public job, there is no room for second guessing.

Also in public work, it is required by law that all projects of a total construction cost exceeding \$25,000 be broken down into separate contracts for General Construction, Heating and Ventilating, Plumbing, Elevators, Electrical, etc. This requires a high degree of contract coordination and detail, and at times appears to be regarded as an unexpected burden by the architect.

This requirement is not the result of bureau red tape, but is of real financial saving to the taxpayer. In large projects, the individual contracts may well run to considerable sums. Were a general contractor to be used, with all other trades as sub-contractors, the general contractor would feel entitled to a fair percentage profit and overhead on the cost of each trade in addition to the profit of the subcontractor. Bureau and private architect supervision should be competent to coordinate the efforts of the separate trades and save the costs of the doubled-up overhead and profit.



It has not generally been the practice of architects to prepare detailed estimates showing breakdown of materials and equipment, but rather to rely on an empirical general experience factor, such as cost per cubic foot of similar types of structures. While this approach is considered adequate as a means of arriving at a budget figure, it has been proven not conclusive enough to act as a basis for actual monetary appropriations for the execution of the work. It becomes increasingly evident that in public work a complete material and

labor "take off" is required. In addition to giving accurate information for appropriations, such breakdowns will become of vital importance in preparing statistics of the work provided and materials required from various industries in the immediate post-War period.

The staff of a bureau is best stabilized at a point where it can act efficiently as a coordinating design unit during peak years or in programs of special magnitude, such as post-War planning, most of the individual projects being assigned to private architects; while in minimum years the bureau can largely carry the program to completion. In order that a proper pitch of professional interest, experience and competency be maintained in the bureau, it is necessary that a certain portion of the program be fully executed by the bureau. Such projects form the development and proving ground for improvements developed from observation and operation of previously executed work. The knowledge thus gained is passed on to the private architect in the form of "Standards."

The above premise indicates that the private architect is given relatively little work when the program is at a minimum. This is not

without logic. Past economic cycles have shown that large public works programs are required as stabilizers during periods of industrial depression. Of such work, it has been indicated that the private architect receives the major share. During industrial boom periods, the public works program is more likely to be kept on a purely current requirement basis. At such times, however, the architect has ample opportunity in the private practice created by good economic conditions.

There have been attempts at various times by both the private architect and the Civil Service architects to out-legislate each other from any participation in the design of major projects. I am convinced that proper consideration of the factors discussed here will show that such restrictive action is detrimental to both parties in the dispute and to the major client—the general public. Nevertheless, the fight appears to go on with unabated fury.

Suits brought by Civil Service groups in New York to prevent the employment of private architects in connection with the post-War program have been rejected. The writer believes this decision to be a healthy one for all concerned.

Recently the Executive Committee of the New York Chapter of the A.I.A. defined its conception of the function of the Architectural Bureau as follows:

*Quotation "A":*

"To gather statistical data and act as a clearing house and correlating agency for information.

"To conduct research,

"Determination of construction needs.

"Preparation of programs for projects.

"Establishment of standards for the information of those preparing plans and as a basis of comparison for alternative methods."

The Committee then goes on to state:

"Government agencies normally are unable to draw the outstanding members of the profession" and "in design matters, the Bureau should be limited to 'preparation of plans, letting of contracts, supervision of construction for maintenance and minor alteration work.'"



The Committee's recommendations are contradictory and unrealistic in the following regards:

The proper realization of duties outlined under *Quotation "A"* calls for a breadth of experience

and architectural judgment of a high order. The Committee does not state how this is to be achieved by staffs qualified merely for "alterations and minor work."

It would seem from such inconsistent statements that the private architect wishes all the large jobs to be carefully nursed through the embryonic stages and turned over when the project is nicely crystallized in program form for one of the "outstanding members of the profession" to wrap up in a nice parcel.

The adoption of such a policy would, I am convinced, be a boomerang to the detriment of the private architect.

Only by the opportunity for challenging design work can competent architects be induced to seek employment in architectural bureaus. Remove this incentive, and the bureau reverts from a creative agency to a bookkeeping machine. Programs and projects will then

become narrower in conception and many will die "aborning" for lack of the comprehensive design approach.

Should this occur, the private architect may conceivably receive fewer projects than when a more healthful design organism exists in the bureau.

Civil Service and private architects should cease this bickering and maneuvering for the ousting of each other, and concentrate jointly their proper professional functions of meeting the ever-expanding needs of a modern society, implementing each other in their interlocking functions, while maintaining a healthy and constructive rivalry in others. By mutual effort, new realms of social and professional research and service may unfold, redounding not only to the credit of the profession but to the welfare and satisfaction of the taxpayer.

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"THERE MUST BE THOUSANDS OF PERSONS who have a suppressed desire to be an architect. If you count housewives who are making single-line drawings of house plans without any space for stairways and with fireplaces six inches thick and two feet long, the number would run into the millions."—KENNETH C. BLACK in *Michigan Society Bulletin*.



# Housing for Britain

IN TWO PARTS—PART I

By *Ralph Walker, F.A.I.A.*

Dr. Guy Emery Shipler, Editor of *The Churchman*, and the author were invited by the British Minister of Information to visit England. It must be the first time since the eighteenth century that anyone has traveled with his private parson.

WE HAD BEEN walking about the bombed area of London, retracing steps to enter long-remembered byways still free from sky-dropped destruction. Down Fleet Street, across the Strand to Lincoln Inns Field, we stopped here and there with concern before the many burnt-out churches designed by that famous but thwarted city planner, Sir Christopher Wren. Tired, cold and somewhat miserable in the wet misty Sunday, depressed by the area of wantonness, although amused and interested in the mossy growths on the tidy and exposed cellar floors and stairs, we came upon the rear of St. Paul's, and in a little park northeast of the apse we sat down for a moment's rest. The gray mist was dripping just overhead, the colder and grayer wall of the great fane rose in its baroque majesty above us, overlaid with a thick and rich black lace of the huge buttonwood trees whose gnarled and interlacing branches,

twigs and little button balls almost made a mantilla over the aged facade. Far above the green grass, the holly and the rhododendrons, Wren's dome disappeared into the soft coverlet of the sky; a world lost in a world above.

Suddenly at our feet we saw tiny forms in the vivid green, four little crosses in the thick grass—slats of pine with bright red cloth rosettes, and at the intersections the penciled names of men who had fallen, and the fields, all far away, on which they had, without doubt, been so gallant. We wondered at the intimacy craved by the four heroic souls to the almost forbidding structure, so stern, so aloof, which like a cliff rose above their mementos. We also wondered at the continued security of this symbol of British faith surrounded by desolation.

Whatever spiritual value the war damage may have brought (and it is great), to make the British bulldog rise to the defense

of his land and home, it has not been altogether helpful to the planner, having been random, unselective and, except in a few cases, a mere sprinkling of destruction. Prof. William Holford, a distinguished economist says: "Its psychological importance is very great but its effect on layout negligible."

To say that the destruction (so lacking in pity) which rained from an unfriendly sky could have been better placed seems callous, and yet the extent of physical blight caused by past British social unconcern is far greater than that caused by German brutality. The truth is that in England (as well as in America) a large number of persons were, it is true, living in shelters, but in *what* shelters and under *what* conditions! "The first half and the middle of the nineteenth century were ages of jerry-building and scamping. It was then that houses had no proper foundations. Internally they were a mass of partitions without cross walls, and their drains were joined in clay. These conditions are to be found not only in the working class houses of the poor but also in the houses of the middle classes and in the large houses of the rich, such as were erected about Russell Square." ("A New England;

Planning for the Future," by Prof. S. P. Adshead).

The British planner and houser (terms for those whose persistent prodding is slowly changing the ways of urban life) believe that there are certain principles worth working for. Briefly these are: "1—That community interest must impose order upon private enterprise; 2—that order and arrangement are but common sense, and that foresight is essential in a world given to scientific change in order to preserve the real assets of a community—health, intelligence and enterprise itself; and 3—that community living and responsibility are necessary to get the full benefit of any urban civilization."



It is estimated that in the immediate post-War period 4,300,000 dwelling units will be needed, about 400,000 a year—obviously a ten-year program; with a slow beginning—85,000 to 100,000 the first year and gradually an increased pace to achieve a ten-year plan. There have been rough estimates that there now exist over 4,000,000 houses that are at least 80 years old and of these at least 1,000,000 have had a life of over 180 years.

It is said that 300,000 families live in bad slum conditions. Approximately 1,250,000 dwellings have been lost by reason of the war and the cessation of all building except for war purposes during four years. It is estimated that 150,000 houses have been demolished, while another 100,000 were made habitable after major repairs, and that 2,500,000 houses have had first aid treatment. For example, I understand that 50,000 houses in Coventry out of 75,000 needed minor repairs—roofs, glass, plaster, plumbing, walls shored; all to the extent of £3,000,000.



In considering the vast effort still needed, and eliminating the effects of the war, it is evident that while there has been much talk and some progress, the efforts of a little more than a century on the housing problem has made barely a scratch. Although British public consciousness of existing bad housing is but recent, the attempts at solution of the housing problem in England have had a relatively long history. Misery in urban living grew with the machine age largely because of indifference and also because no one knew just what a city was or what it might be.

In 1830 Edwin Chadwick made an investigation regarding the housing of the very poor. The conditions could only be described as revolting. Open cesspools were generally found beneath occupied cellar floors; water supply was in the wretched courtyards and there it was but an irregular blessing, to be cut off at the whim of the landlord, often for the nonpayment of the too high rent. Investigators, holding their noses and restraining the inclination to vomit, dodged as best they could "vermin dropping on them like peas."

A Royal Commission in 1884 disclosed the horrors to be general, and the first slum clearings were promoted at Birmingham soon after by Joseph Chamberlain, who said: "These schemes will never be effective and can never be conducted economically unless on a very large scale. I do not believe in these bit-by-bit improvements; I think that they are extravagant in cost and a mere scratching upon the surface hardly worth undertaking." ("Housing and Slum Clearance in London," by Hugh Quigley and Ismay Goldie.) But the first idea that housing could be done on a large scale came from an American millionaire, George Peabody, who built tenements, improving the sani-

tary conditions but still much too high in rent to reach the wretched occupants of noisome dwellings. The Peabody Foundation as a self-sustaining private enterprise was able to reach better paid workers only.



It is interesting to note that, from the beginning of the century up to the last war, 23,700 rooms were demolished and but 21,000 rebuilt (by the London authorities). The character of good living was clearly indicated during this time, however, in such developments as Bourneville Village, the beginning of that remarkable social achievement by the Cadbury family, an achievement which has had an enormous influence upon later developments in Birmingham. At Port Sunlight an earlier attempt was made in "Prosperity Sharing." Here were signposts to civilized living.

The first houses built under this impulse were not nearly so good as those to be found in the mill towns in Rhode Island, built in the early part of the nineteenth century. In Bourneville most of them have been demolished and replaced. The early part of the century had better ideas of living and taste.

Those who have read Arnold Bennett and D. H. Lawrence will remember the easy access to the country from the "Five Towns" and other industrial centers. The old relationship of town and country was still maintained, although the towns were increasing in size.

In the early part of the century, observers of the scene foresaw the coming urban developments. Dr. Adna Weber in "The Growth of Cities" published at Columbia University in 1899, Ebenezer Howard in 1898, and H. G. Wells in "Anticipations" published in 1902, all could see not only the then present tendencies for great cities to become greater, but also the trends indicating a decentralization within the urban form. Howard's satellite towns—first Letchworth and many years later Welwyn—were attempts to solve the difficulty. Welwyn was scorned recently by a group of young British architects as being "arty party"—an expression meaning "sweet." But it was my observation, one day at noontime, with school children scampering through the town without fear of automobile traffic, joining their elders coming home from the factories across the tracks, that here was a method of life altogether wholesome and in scale with

human desires. It may lack the drama of the "beehive" planning of the C.I.A.M (stated in "Can Cities Survive," by Sert), but it satisfied the instincts of family life.

An interesting book published in our 'thirties—"London the Unique City," by Steen Rasmussen—warns the British not to fall into the snare of the European tight tene-ment city ideal as stressed by Cor-busier, but to retain the single-family house and the independent character which it breeds, an inde-pendent character which he asserts may come only from the certain self-sufficiency which the single-family house creates in a low city, an open city, with parks and many playfields to add a communal sense to the amenities of the individual garden.

The opposite point of view is as strongly expressed by the younger Briton, and the battle of flats versus houses occupies many a col-umn in the limited paper of the daily press. Professor Reilly, a well-beloved and respected teacher of architecture, and an active pro-ponent, states that in his opinion culture and single-family houses seem to lack any relationship. He believes that the tighter people live the more aware they are of the best things which urban civilization has

to offer. He does not want the city suburbanized and therefore thinks that flats are the only method of enjoying city life. He quotes Lewis Mumford in respect to the drama of urban life, although Mumford can be quoted by both sides: "When this drama is sharply fo-cused and adequately staged every phase of life feels an uplift of social energy; eating, working, mating, sleeping, are not less than they were before but far more. Life has, despite its broken moments, the poise and unity of a work of art. To create that background, to achieve that insight, to enliven each individual's capacity, is the essence of the art of building cities, and less than that is not enough."



Here it seems is a poetic desire for something which hardly exists. People who live in cities are no doubt stirred at times by the mul-titudes who live with them, by the great buildings, the busy highways, the sense of great things being ac-complished; but in the hours of the usual day the average city dweller hurries to his work, a small niche, in his mind, unrelated to the great world, hurries home and then to the local movie "and so to bed." And the woman who shares this

life is even more anchored to a small community of interests just outside her door—the green grocer around the corner, the tea on the neighbor's hob, the play of children on the street.

Miss Mary Sutherland, Chief Woman Officer of the Labour Party, stated nine points in a charter for British women; most of them are related to community living:

1. Good labor-saving homes, fit to work in and fit for family life.
2. Good health services that will provide for the special needs of mothers and children.
3. Social security for wife and mother, as well as for the other members of the community.
4. Family allowances.
5. Home helper service.
6. Nursery schools.
7. Good food supplies with legal protection against exploitation.
8. Holiday facilities.
9. Greater provision for communal services — *i.e.* restaurants and laundries.

These sum up not into any drama of urban living but into a statement that "Home and family

life satisfy certain deep human needs which, if unsatisfied, bring frustration and produce badly integrated beings who, carrying their personal dissatisfaction and frustration to public affairs, are likely to be negative and destructive." Here are the ideals for British housing—the creation and the maintenance of family life.

In England, as well as America, the women are being sold the ideal of a post-War house. "Post-War houses are to be fully equipped homes. 'Saving up' for an electric iron, going without this or that so that money may be available for the newest cooker, mortgaging savings to have refrigeration—these are experiences which are to be eliminated from the lives of home makers of a generation or so ahead. They will have the joy, if all goes well, of finding themselves with a full set of 'tools' necessary for satisfactory home running when the Ministry of Works Committees have finished their planning and seen their ideas put into practice." (Julia Herick in *The Sunday Times*, London, November 21, 1943.)

(*To be concluded next month*)

"THE friendship of Charles McKim was in itself an order of nobility."—ELIHU ROOT.

# Designing Single-Family Houses for Rent

*By Eugene H. Klaber, F.A.I.A.*

THE desire for home ownership in the United States has been repeatedly stressed, and there appears to be little question that a sizable proportion of families wish it. This is entirely understandable; the feeling that the home and the land on which it stands are one's own, to do with as one pleases within the framework of the law without consulting others, is precious to many persons. If additions to the house or improvement of the grounds are made at the occupant's expense, they do not become a part of a parcel of real estate which is the property of another.

It is difficult to determine exactly how widespread this desire really is. Even a careful questionnaire would be useless, since many persons who will readily state that they wish to own a home may not mean that they wish to assume the continued financial responsibilities of taxes, interest and amortization involved in home ownership. Their wish may be merely to have an individual home on land to which they have exclusive access and of which they have exclusive use dur-

ing their occupancy. Since home ownership has almost invariably been associated with the single-family house, the desire for the mode of life made possible by the dwelling is readily taken to be a desire of ownership.

Nor is the vast number of homes that have been purchased in recent years conclusive evidence. How many of these homes have been bought because the purchasers could not find satisfactory houses for rent? The small down-payments required for purchase of a home whose mortgage is insured by the Government, coupled with the pleasure of moving into a brand-new house, has doubtless induced many to buy, who would otherwise have rented a home. Many have been astute enough to figure that over a limited period of years, the monthly payments, plus the entire loss of the relatively small down-payment required, would amount to little more, perhaps even less, than the aggregate rental they would have paid for similar accommodations.

In spite of the widespread propaganda for, and the definite increase

of, home ownership, only 37 per cent of urban dwellings in the United States were owner-occupied in 1940. Making due allowance for multiple dwellings and apartments over stores, it appears reasonable to assume that at least 50 per cent of urban families would be available as tenants for individual homes for rent. The large proportion of renters is probably due in a measure to the unsatisfactory character of many of the available supply of houses, but the uncertainty of a reasonably permanent place of occupation in an industrial civilization is unquestionably a potent factor.

At the same time we are told by informed real estate developers and agents that the individual home as a field of investment is real estate poison. Why is this the case?

The first explanation that is usually given is that the upkeep of a rented home is excessive. Tenants do not use it with the same care as if they owned it, hence depreciation and repair of the house are much greater. Quite true, the wear and tear is almost always greater and a certain proportion of tenants abuse what they have rented. But this fact has not precluded the development of mul-

tiple dwellings for rent. The fact of the matter is that very few individual homes, even when not the product of the jerry builder, have been built with that *added measure* of resistance to wear and tear which is essential in rental properties.



Another consideration is the question of planning. The purchaser of a home has usually found accommodations that he believes will meet his needs for a time. With homes built for sale it is necessary to find for each, only one family that is satisfied. From that point on, the developer has no further concern with the house. If repairs are excessive, or if the purchaser wishes to sell and cannot find a buyer because the house was planned to meet specialized and not a general need, that is his lookout. The house intended for rent must meet the needs of a whole series of occupants during the period of its useful life. Hence its planning is a more exacting problem, for in addition to satisfying present demands, it must, as far as possible, envisage future changes in living requirements.

A third cogent objection to the individual home as a rental unit



is that it is not an economical entity from the point of view of management. The cost of bookkeeping and accountancy, of renting when vacant and of maintenance, are all disproportionately high. Even if a number of houses are under one ownership, they are likely to be scattered here and there, to be of different ages and types of construction, and hence more difficult and expensive to service and repair.

Finally the segregated one-family dwelling is an atom in the urban complex, unable to create or maintain the character of a neighborhood, and vulnerable to every adverse influence which the constantly changing urban pattern may generate.

We are therefore faced with the dilemma of a vast demand for individual homes for rent and an unwillingness to meet that demand, based on sad experience. Is there a way out? Here is a situation in which we should face realistically the requirements and implications of a program of individual homes for rent and base our practice on our conclusions.

No attempt will be made in this brief presentation to analyze the hundred and one items with respect to which the rental property differs from the property for sale.

They may be briefly categorized as follows:

1. *Durability.* The rental home must be more rigid in its essential structure, and its finish and equipment tougher and better able to resist hard use. As examples, wall and floor finishes must be better; hardware more sturdy; trimmings of plumbing fixtures less subject to breakage.

2. *Safety.* The home owner has no one who will indemnify him for injury to the members of his family, arising from use of the home; the landlord has a responsibility for injury to his tenants. This makes necessary the inclusion of certain items of protective equipment, not invariably included in homes for sale. Examples: handrails on stairs, even where they are enclosed; handgrips at tubs and showers; railings or grilles at areaways.

3. *Planning.* For rental housing, room sizes should be predicated on the larger commercial sizes of furniture; room arrangement should permit the maximum flexibility of use by families of varying numbers, ages and differences of sex composition. Kitchen equipment should be more extensive, and represent a maximum rather than a minimum required by the largest family which can properly

be housed in the unit. Dining space may not presume the use of dolls' furniture. These are just a few of the considerations that must constantly be kept in mind in planning the dwelling unit that is to be rented.

4. *Management.* To afford the possibility of economical management, homes erected for rent should not be built in small numbers on individual lots scattered here and there. They must comprise unified developments, built in their entirety in one operation under one set of specifications. The advantages of common specifications are evident when one considers the problems of repairs and replacements.

5. *Neighborhood.* To resist the dangers of neighborhood deterioration, the houses should be designed as coordinated groups; as projects

rather than as houses. Not only the buildings, but their relation to each other and the development of the land and its planting, should be the result of studied and mature planning.

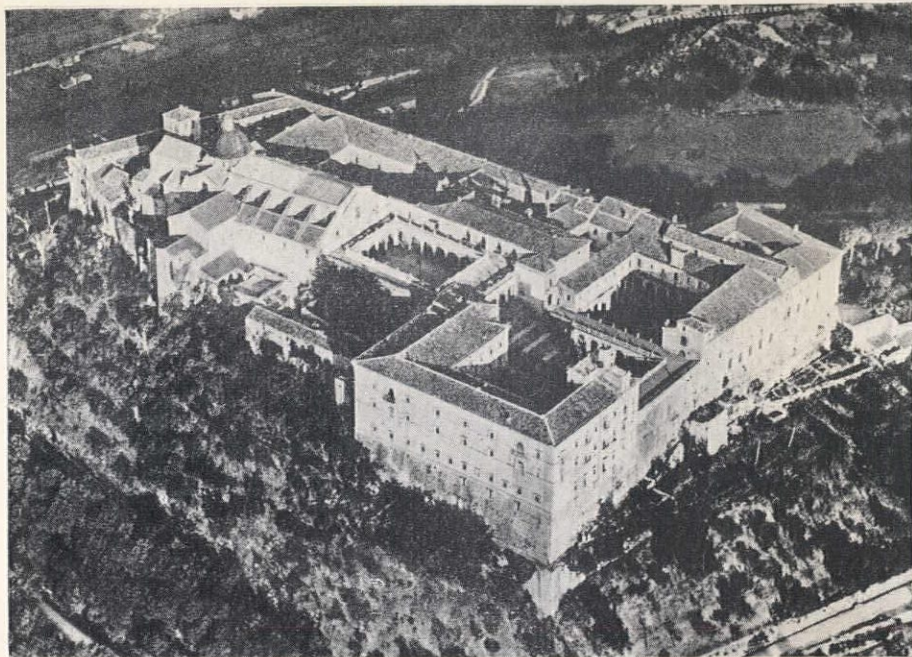
It becomes apparent, therefore, that the reason why individual homes for rent have been unsatisfactory as investments, is because no one has done a real job of producing them, except in rare instances such as Chatham Village in Pittsburgh. It can be done, but it is no field for the sell-out and clear-out developer. It requires a recognition of the fact that rational urban development is a fruitful field of long-term investment, not subject to the extreme financial hazards that have characterized the anarchy that we have permitted to prevail in past urban growth.

## A Visit to Monte Cassino

*By John H. Scarff*

IT WAS IN June, 1914, while staying in Rome, that I received an invitation to go with a friend to Naples for an automobile that he was importing from the United States. I proposed that we return through the Abruzzi by the Via Casilina and stop for the night at

Monte Cassino. It was well known that the good Benedictine Monks were in the habit of receiving any wayfarer asking hospitality. We knew the large Abbey crowned the top of a high mountain above the town of Cassino, half way from Rome to Naples. It had a famous

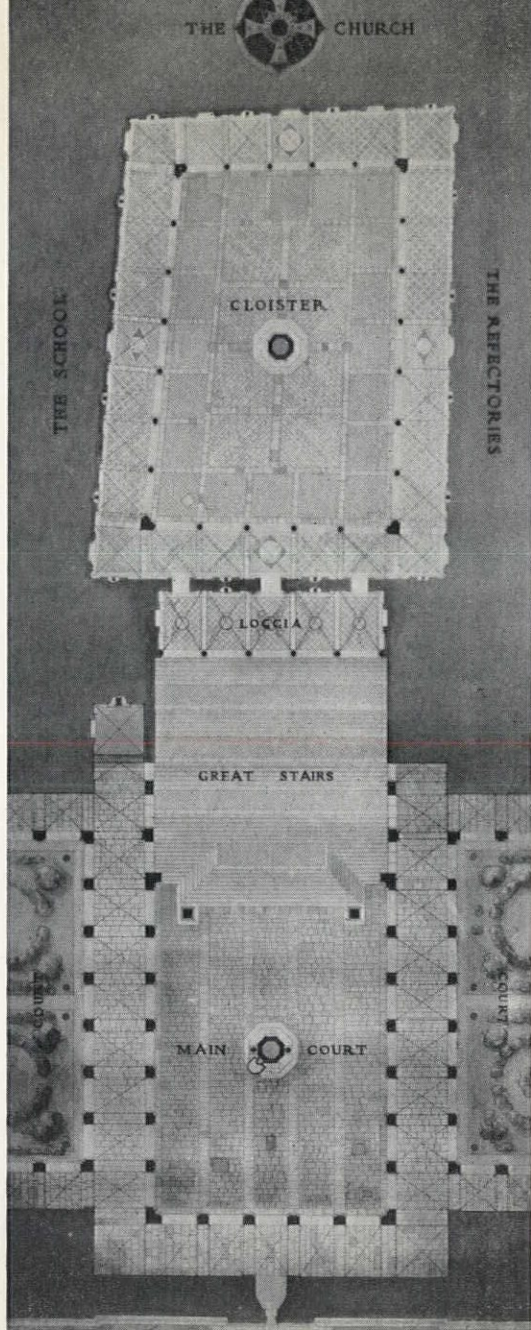


MONTE CASSINO, ITALY

*A photograph from the air*

MONTE CASSINO:  
PLAN OF  
THE ABBEY COURTS

*From a measured  
drawing by  
Edgar I. Williams,  
F.A.I.A.*



library of ancient manuscripts, an art collection, a chapel given by Kaiser Wilhelm II, a beautiful courtyard by Bramante, and an unequalled view over that wild and mountainous part of Italy.

We began the long climb from Cassino in the early afternoon. For fifteen kilometers the road zig-zagged up the side of the mountain. As we neared the top the grade became more difficult and the turns almost impossibly sharper for the car we had. We passed little traffic—occasionally a cart laden with market produce or a carrier slowly climbing the ancient path that cut directly across the turns in the road. The view became more extensive as we climbed. Finally the olive groves and the small cultivated terraces gave place to the rocky ledges of the mountain top. We passed the farmhouse near the entrance, where we later learned ladies visiting the Monastery were lodged for the night, and entered, through a gateway, the lowest of the many walled enclosures.

Leaving the car in what was certainly one of the old stables, we mounted a flight of steps and were shown into a waiting-room or office. Soon after we were greeted by a priest in the long habit of the Benedictine Order. His English

was irreproachable. He gave us to understand that while we remained as guests at Monte Cassino he would be glad to see to our general comfort, explain as far as he was able the sights of the Abbey, and act as guide and host. If we wished he would send our small luggage to our room and show us around the Monastery. To this we readily agreed and we started a tour of the building and its many courts.

He told us of the ancient site, occupied even in the remotest past by a shrine to a pagan diety, how St. Benedict in the sixth century had founded the Abbey as a seat for his Order. We knew the Benedictines as a teaching order and we saw groups of young Italian boys in the various courts and corridors—students at the Abbey. And we knew also that there the lamps of learning had been kept burning during the dark Middle Ages, and that to the piety and love of beauty and order of the Benedictines we owe much that had come down to our own time. We paused from time to time to admire the view over the wild and rugged landscape while he explained to us the economy of the Monastery and how it was provisioned and sustained on its mountain top.

With simple courtesy he left us

eventually at the door to our room, and said that at the proper time we would be summoned to supper. We found ourselves in a vast tile-floored, vaulted chamber. In each of the two inner corners of the room was a large bed, a chair and a dressing-table. Around these on a wire hung a red rep curtain. The curtain could be drawn as desired to give the corner a greater privacy. A table and a few chairs constituted the entire remainder of the furnishings of the room. The walls were without decorations and, as all other rooms of the building, whitewashed. The one window opened to the floor and gave onto a small balcony which hung out over the sheer outer wall of the building, at least one hundred feet above its footing in the rocky ledges of the mountain side. The view was extensive over the valley to distant and ever more distant ridges and peaks of the wild Abruzzi. The air was fresh and cool.

In a short time there was a gentle knock at the door. A lay brother entered. He was old and his movements were slow. His smiling face was marked by lines of friendliness and good humor. "*Buona sera!*" Please, if the Signorini wished, he would be glad

to show the Signorini to the dining room. Down long corridors he guided us. Finally we were shown into a room of fair size, high and brightly lighted. Other travelers had preceded us. They were seated on both sides of a long table. As greetings were exchanged we took vacant places at the end. A white cloth covered the table. The appointments were simple but serviceable. The meal, I remember, started with a good thick soup which was followed by an onion omelet, served with generous slices of crusty bread and the substantial red wine of the country. We were waited upon by lay brothers and the servings were ample.



After supper we moved into the Bramante Court, one side of which was open to the view—only three sides completed by the high buildings of the Monastery. There awaiting us was our guide and chaperon. The valley was beginning to fill with shadows but the mountain top and the buildings themselves were still lighted by the late descending sun. We assured him that we had enjoyed a very nice supper, as we walked to the outer parapet. For about an hour we talked of many things. How

did it happen that the Father's English was without flaw? He was from Malta. His father had been English and his mother of the island—or perhaps it was the other way 'round. It was the custom of the Abbey to assign to each visitor a priest who spoke the visitor's language. He was young, about thirty-five, but he had already been at Monte Cassino many years. The conversation was more general than it had been before supper. He told us how it happened that he had chosen the Church for a career, and we told him of our far-off homes, and of our work and plans for the future. We then bade each other good night and we returned to our room.

After undressing we went for a last look from the balcony. It was just large enough for two small chairs which we brought from the room. The valley had filled with the night's shadows. The mountaintops were still lighted with reflected glow, and below only the thin silver line of the river could be seen. The evening stars were already out. A dog barked far

below and we saw the night train to Rome and heard it faintly blow. With the great bulk of the Abbey behind us we looked out into a void, covered by the brilliant Mediterranean sky. We talked of this incredibly beautiful land of Italy, of what European culture owed to it of grace and charm. We recalled the many secrets of Nature discovered by dauntless Italian minds, and how much that is rich and full in our lives we owed to the land we were in. We told each other that ever since the mad-cap escapade of Charles VIII of France into Italy, she had been subjected to war, pillage, purchase, and still was rich. It seemed to us sitting on the balcony, so many years ago, that she had not only lighted up the whole world, but that she had also shown us a heaven as good as any and better than some. Little did we think that on that June night of 1914 the foundations of our peaceful world were already being undermined and that thirty years later we would know that the Monastery of Monte Cassino had fallen in ruins and that Italy was again in agony.

“ON a good plan you can make forty good elevations, but on a bad plan you can't make any good elevation.”—  
VICTOR LALOUX.

## What Are the Air Waves Saying?

Part of an extemporaneous discussion in The American Forum of the Air, broadcast over the coast-to-coast network of Mutual from Washington on Feb. 29. Under the chairmanship of Theodore Granik, the following participated: Frank Lloyd Wright; Mrs. Samuel Rosenman, Chairman, National Committee on Housing; Herbert A. Nelson, Executive Vice-President, National Association of Real Estate Boards; and Mayor John J. McDonough of St. Paul, Minn.

**CHAIRMAN GRANIK:** Mayor McDonough, what incentive have our cities to offer suburbanites to move back into the city?

**MAYOR McDONOUGH:** Should not that question be: What incentive is there to keep suburbanites in the cities rather than not to have them move out of the cities? I think that we have got to prevent the better sections of the city from becoming blighted and from having the blighted area approach the better sections of the city . . .

**MR. NELSON:** Mr. Mayor, what is your thought about rebuilding these areas with public housing? Do you think that that is a good thing to do?

**MRS. ROSENMAN:** That is a little outside the subject, Mr. Nelson. We are really talking about: Shall we rebuild the cities or shall the people be siphoned off into the hinterlands of the nation? I'd like to find out what Mr. Wright feels about that.

**MR. WRIGHT:** A realtor without a financial plan would be like

a hen incapable of laying an egg.

**MR. NELSON:** Even architects need money.

**MR. WRIGHT:** They always need money and never get it and I am not so sure that it is worth having anyhow, and certainly I didn't come here from way out in the heart of this nation onto this desert strip to talk about money . . .

**MAYOR McDONOUGH:** How do you propose to finance the services that must be given to these people who move outside?

**MR. WRIGHT:** I think that is a subordinate question and should be considered after we have got down to principles and proceeded from generals to particulars . . .

**MAYOR McDONOUGH:** Do you propose to put the utilities in first and have them build after?

**MR. WRIGHT:** I propose to get the proper idea in the right place.

**MRS. ROSENMAN:** What is the proper idea?

**MR. WRIGHT:** Well, I think the idea is this. The city is already an outmoded institution.



Obsolescence has been the enemy of our form of civilization and we have not taken care of it as we should. I think after this war is over we are going to have not one thing that is of any utilitarian value, nothing really valuable. It is all going out over night, and so our cities have gradually been going out of their own accord. They have had no attention; they were never planned in the first place, and they have no planning now that is intelligent. The thing goes entirely to the beginning.

MRS. ROSENMAN: Don't you think that there are certain essentials in a city that are very costly to supply outside of the city? Just take one thing, a water supply. A water supply is a very precious thing, a very expensive thing to create. Our major cities all have adequate water supply. If you are going to create a new city you have to give it to them. You take your sewerage—it is all within the city.

MR. WRIGHT: All details, Mrs. Rosenman.

MRS. ROSENMAN: But those are expensive equipment. If you could rebuild a new city using your old and present community facilities, couldn't you do a valuable job?

MR. WRIGHT: What is a city?

MRS. ROSENMAN: Well, a city is a cultural center.

MR. WRIGHT: The buildings, the streets, the water system, the sewer system? I think not. The people are the city; the people who live in the city are the city.

MRS. ROSENMAN: But the people work in the city.

MR. WRIGHT: Unfortunately they do because they have no choice.

MRS. ROSENMAN: Well, aren't most of the industries placed within a city?

MR. WRIGHT: Unfortunately they are but they needn't be now.

MAYOR McDONOUGH: Don't they have to have the services that the city gives?

MR. WRIGHT: No longer.

MAYOR McDONOUGH: Why?

MR. WRIGHT: I have built houses for people with a little septic tank and with a little Kohler plant out on a little subsistence farm and they are doing very well, thank you, and are very happy and they require nothing that the city has.

MRS. ROSENMAN: Where do they work?

MR. WRIGHT: They have their radio, they have their schools, they have their hospitals; they have their radio and they are listening

now. It is hard to believe it but I guess they are listening. And they are quite happy and I think that they have the best of it and I believe the city itself recognizes the fact. I think it doesn't matter very much what our realtors think any more. We should have taken them all out and shot them at sunrise years ago when the city began to go downhill.

MRS. ROSENMAN: Someone sells property out in the country, too, so we have to be careful not to shoot them some day.

MR. WRIGHT: It is their trick to find out where the crowd is headed, run out in front of the crowd, beat them to it, buy up the ground and then divide it up into little, small pieces of pie and sell it to them and start the iniquity all over again. It is their specialty.

MRS. ROSENMAN: If we could keep from cutting the city into new slices of pie, if we had some means of accumulating the land in blighted areas of the city and re-parceling it the way people really want to live and bringing some of the things that you have in the country to the city, don't you think that cities would be a proper center?

MR. WRIGHT: I think that idea would work both ways. I think it

should be done—bring the country to the city and take the city to the country—and I believe there is the city of the future. I think the city of the future is no longer a concentration. I think it is a decentralization and an integration along organic lines. It is our misfortune that we have never allowed ourselves to learn anything of architecture. The solution of the present-day problems is all architectural, it is all architectural.

MR. NELSON: Oh, Mr. Wright, there has to be land planning too, now. Don't you think it is a good thing to rebuild cities by well-planned neighborhoods so that you can have the advantages of a real civilized life?

MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Nelson, I ask you, what do you think architecture is?

MR. NELSON: I don't think it is land planning.

MR. WRIGHT: I think it is. I think architecture is the science of structure and the structure of whatever is, whether it is music, whether it is sculpture or painting or building or city planning or statesmanship. If we had the right kind of an architect we would have a statesman now. That is what is lacking in our present scene.

MAYOR McDONOUGH: Mr.

Wright, just outside of our city is a suburban development; they have septic tanks and things like that out there and the state health department has now found it a health menace and they have demanded that they put in an effective sewage disposal system.

MR. WRIGHT: That is simply stacking the cards against a man who is trying to be independent and it goes all down the line. I dare say if we would try to blow up this bottleneck that is our financial system, the banking system would soon crack down on us too for the same reason.

MAYOR McDONOUGH: What advantages are just outside of the city limits that aren't inside the city limits?

MR. WRIGHT: There is very little advantage in the suburbs. The suburbs is only a moving outward toward the thing that is inevitable now, that is really modern. I don't see why you can't all see that the city is an antique, fit for collectors.

MRS. ROSENMAN: It is an antique as it is today but I think there are certain things within a city that keep people there and that the city will always be, and therefore instead of saying that everyone will want to move out to the country

and have his own septic tank, or maybe two septic tanks to every house—

MR. WRIGHT: That septic tank seems to have made a hit.

MRS. ROSENMAN: There will be a lot of people who will always want to live in the city. I know that every city has enough land within it so that if it were properly used, people would not have to be herded together. We have in every city of this country a lot of shabby land that pays no taxes and that is of no value to anyone. If the shack lands and if the dump lands were all counted in—

MR. WRIGHT (interposing): Mrs. Rosenman, have you ever heard of the new space scale?

MRS. ROSENMAN: The new space scale?

MR. WRIGHT: The new space scale.

MRS. ROSENMAN: I don't think I have.

MR. WRIGHT: The change that has come into modern life by way of the car, by way of mobilization, by way of the telephone, the telegraph and all these things which have made ten miles as one mile used to be.

MRS. ROSENMAN: Well, that is true, but it still doesn't answer the need of the family that has to

get two or three children to school in the morning, that has to get the husband to work and maybe the wife to work. They like to have a spacious life but they like to have it within a stone's throw of work and a school and I think they are entitled to have all that.

MR. WRIGHT: Why should all this be concentrated in the city any longer. Is there a good reason for it?

MAYOR McDONOUGH: Yes.

MR. WRIGHT: What is it?

MAYOR McDONOUGH: People can't afford to live out in the country.

MR. WRIGHT: That is the point. Subsidize transportation and enable those people to go where they should go and not try to play benefactor and build for them and keep them where they are.

MR. NELSON: You *do* have a financial plan!

MR. WRIGHT: You dangle employment in the faces of these people. Why? They are all wage slaves. They have no choice but to go to the city to work now. They can't get their birthright, which is the ground. They can't go out there because they are employed. Is employment enough?

MR. NELSON: You want us all to be farmers?

MR. WRIGHT: Yes, I want us all to be part farmers; I want us to know something of farming. I would like to have us shake the dust of all this urbanism from our souls, get a little fresh air, go out and hear the birds sing and sit on the grass occasionally. I think it would be good for us all.

MRS. ROSENMAN: Don't you think that there are certain cultural things around a city? Even the town of old within a rural setting had certain social needs, people getting together. Now, some of us like to be off by ourselves but others of us like to be within a stone's throw of a neighbor where we can go in and chat and where our children can play. I really feel that the city as a meeting place and a living place is here to stay, except that those of us who want space and safety and good schools for our children are moving out because the city isn't meeting our needs; but if you gave us a choice of living in a city where we have spaciousness I think we would prefer to live in the city.

MR. WRIGHT: But that would not prove that it was right, that wouldn't prove that it was intelligent; it might prove that it was merely unfortunate and that we had a choice of evils, which is the

thing that has been presented to us now all down the line. It is apparent that we never had a choice of anything except one evil or another evil. It never occurs to us that possibly all that might change if the circumstances changed, if the conditions were otherwise, and if we do not recognize it, well, the force of over-production itself, this imposition from above, this weight of production presuming upon consumption, this maldistribution, which is a disease—it is all going downhill and the city itself recognizes it.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Wright, I would like to ask Mrs. Rosenman a question. She has studied city planning. Don't you think, Mrs. Rosenman, that we can make much better use of the land resources we now have in our cities

MRS. ROSENMAN: I think so.

MR. NELSON: About a quarter or a fifth of our privately owned land is vacant in most communities.

MRS. ROSENMAN: That is the point I was trying to make, that if we used our land properly we could bring some of the amenities of the country into the city and enjoy living in the city. I just can't believe that our factories within the cities and our commercial institutions are

going to be scrapped. I think they are going to go on and so long as they are there people will want to live near them.

MR. WRIGHT: I don't say they are going to be scrapped. I say they are going into the country, too. I say the city is no place for a factory if people have to live around it while they are working and there is no reason now why it should ever be in a city; it is so much better off in the country.

MRS. ROSENMAN: If a factory follows you to the country you are going to create the same situation around the factory in the country.

MR. WRIGHT: If the factories as we have them now follow us to the country they would curse us, yes, as they curse us now, but there is no reason why that factory should ever go to the country, there is no reason why any building that we have in the city today should ever go to the country because it would be a disgrace and a stench there.

MAYOR McDONOUGH: I take it that three of us here want to preserve the cities. Mr. Wright wants to abandon the cities and move them into the country.

MR. WRIGHT: I don't want to abandon the cities; I want the city to develop into something that is

part country and part city, neither one nor the other.

MAYOR McDONOUGH: Are you in favor of rehabilitating the city?

MR. WRIGHT: I don't know what you mean by rehabilitating.

MAYOR McDONOUGH: Rebuilding the blighted areas and making them more attractive.

MR. WRIGHT: I believe in taking all the blighted areas and planting grass there. I think that the only salvation that any city in

this nation has, looking twenty-five or ten or fifteen years ahead, even, is to plant grass over two-thirds of the area of the city, to preserve the buildings that were interesting and valuable—I don't know where you would find them; I haven't seen many.

MR. NELSON: Didn't you build some?

MR. WRIGHT: I have built a few but it wouldn't be proper for me to refer to them in this connection.

## These Dolorous Architects

*By J. Woolson Brooks*

BY ITS OWN admission, the Profession of Architecture is sick, so sick that its members see imaginary vultures hovering over the body even before the undertaker has been called. The situation may be desperate, but perhaps the critter need not die. Perhaps it is a case for spiritual rather than for medical care; and at the very worst, for the psychiatrist rather than the surgeon. Architects may think their current self-criticism is a stock-taking process, but it has more the sound of hypochondria. It is high time for architects to seek conversion, not of their plants

and products to post-War models, but a spiritual conversion of the kind we used to see in our youth down in the sawdust trail in the evangelist's tent, since the trouble is largely a matter of the architects' attitude.

They are bound together as a profession by a persecution mania instead of by zeal to fulfill their destiny of creating a better world. Architects have so lost their pride that what is talked in conventions and printed in the architectural press is to an appalling extent an exhibition of the baser, suicidal emotions. They petulantly express

jealousy of the engineers' predominance; envy of the success obtained by designing contractors; disappointment in the public's appraisal of their profession. No wonder we are considered boys in a man's world! We will never possess the numbers to form a pressure group, but enough moral pressure is latent in the profession to regain us our lost esteem if that is what we crave. All that is needed is to convert the energy from a self-destructing introversion into a dynamic extroversion.



We casually bill our clients for "architectural services" without realizing that that trite expression holds a key to our salvation. During recent decades, the prevailing agnostics have tried to discredit the broad implications of Service in their campaign to debunk all ideals, and architects have weakly submitted, thus assisting at their own funeral. We have timidly admitted we are ineffectual. We have wrongly attributed our shortcomings to an adherence to the ideal of beauty, whereas we have not always adhered to anything, but have often merely dabbled with the pleasurable aspects of prettiness. Although we have no Hippo-

cratic oath to guide us as have the doctors, nor any traditional policy of social responsibility, architects generally come from that fringe of society which produces geniuses, reformers and prophets, a group whose common intellectual nourishment is ideals. When architects underrate principle, they do not thus automatically become shrewd; they are only weakening their imagination, and architects without imagination are the pitiful creatures you hear crying today.

The architect through aptitude and training possesses many of the faculties of an artist, but he is not content to confine his creation to one medium: to paint, marble, bronze or sound. Color, texture, form, or rhythm, either alone or even combined cannot satisfy his creative urge; invariably they seem to him incomplete without the additional element of mechanics. The artist or poet can depict a better world, but it is the architect who can accomplish it. If anyone doubts that improvement over present conditions is needed, let him observe the stupid scene in which most of our compatriots live, whether it be house and lot or apartment; let him notice the tragic faults of our cities, from the blatant signs or the greedy little

commercial structures to the fundamental disorganization of streets and areas; let him analyze the tawdry vulgarity of most public structures with their insincere effort to seem what they are not, or their futile attempt to function in spite of plan. Then, if he is an architect, let him start doing something about it. He can't do it in the supine manner he would most enjoy, for it has been a long time since he has made a better mouse trap: he must adopt whatever measures are necessary for a strong man with a purpose to accomplish a definite objective. He must realize that he is that man.

The architect started his professional career with another faculty which is too often now atrophied: scientific curiosity. He has restricted himself by early allowing disgust for the narrow outlook and unimaginative drudgery of some individual engineer to spread over his attitude toward the entire allied profession. When he has reached maturity he is too superior to truck with engineering, or even to be caught approaching a technical problem scientifically. Obviously, this frequent state of affairs is all wrong, and some strenuous reorientation must be done to set it right.

Architects normally administer

the expenditure of billions of dollars per year, but they do not consider themselves business men because they are not as adept at mental arithmetic as some of their clients. They accept the chore of keeping accounts on a building project and of seeing that all disbursements are made properly, without expecting to be rated as astute as the banker who does the same thing less gracefully; often less intelligently. The architect possesses the ability to be an authority on appraisals or depreciation, and his knowledge and experience qualify him beyond any other profession. No man is better able to advise a client on the soundness of an investment in a building, yet the architect seldom serves in this capacity, and if he does, he accepts the client's skepticism toward his findings as unavoidable. Is it possible that he should exhibit enough force of character to be believed?



The same tolerant condescension is given the profession by civic leaders. Architects have no place in public life, in shaping civic programs, in advising on future developments, and this is directly the fault of the architects through their failure all these years to seek



leadership. Nobody has asked them to be leaders, so naturally they have hesitated to tell anybody that they are willing and able. Only a sick profession could exhibit such weakness. Let us hope we soon stop enjoying poor health.

Architects of the Renaissance were pin-up boys, and their modern counterparts are individually charming fellows, endowed with

social grace, wit and wisdom. There is little point in worrying why they have slipped. Absolutely all that architects need do to recover their proper place in the scheme of things is to be themselves. They must climb out of their wallow of self pity, make use of the talents God has given them, and above all, face the world with confidence that only they can do the job that's to be done.

## Sir Edwin Lutyens

1869-1944

By *H. S. Goodhart-Rendel*

PAST PRESIDENT, ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS

Excerpts from an appreciation in the  
*Journal of the R.I.B.A.*, January, 1944.

WITH the death of Sir Edwin Lutyens there passes from the scene another of the British architects who, since the unknown designer of Ottery St. Mary church, have been laws to themselves for the future wonderment of historians. Wren, Hawksmoor, Soane, Street, Shaw, Lutyens, what an impressive but inconsequent succession they make! Conforming to no system, unless it be that the affinity between the first named and the last show variation to be going round in a circle. Very

English they all were; inventive, resourceful, and endowed with the power of commanding opportunity and enrolling disciples. Men who for the most part felt before they thought, but who, when forced to it could think as vigorously as they acted. Men strongly distinguished by their enthusiasm and ego-centricity from the other dynasty that shared their rule—from the philosophic line of Dance junior, Chambers, Cockerell, Barry, Butterfield, Pearson, Burnet. Men whom, perhaps, we cannot expect

people outside this country to see with our eyes, but whom no Englishman can have any difficulty in loving and applauding.

Sir Edwin youngly began to serve his art, designing in his 'teens—or at any rate in his legal infancy, various small buildings in Surrey . . . Charm was obviously the young pupil's preoccupation, and the next house he built, that of Chinthurst Hill, while still predominantly Ernest-Georgian, is as charming as can be. This house is planned with a recklessness of economy and convenience from which the elder man would probably have shrunk, but both master and pupil were picture-makers, planning pictorially rather than practically, until the ends of their lives . . .



The first full development of Lutyens' architectural individuality appeared in a remarkable group of houses . . . The charm of all these houses is elaborate and compelling; and—although some of the potency with which it enthralled my generation may have evaporated—there can be few people insensible of it even among the young. The apparatus with which it is produced is the apparatus of

Shaw and George—the long level ridge of a great roof that usually sweeps down in some part nearly to the ground, the high massive chimneys, the exhibition of oaken carpentry, the small much divided casements pushed right up under the eaves or floating in a sea of plain wall. But in Lutyens' use of this apparatus we observe a new freedom. Shaw always, and even George frequently, planned their houses with an economy and directness inherited from eighteenth-century tradition; the elevations might be as romantically charming as such economy and compactness would allow, but, inevitably in the exterior of so close a conglomerate, chimneys might pierce roofs in embarrassing places and windows be compulsorily larger and more crowded than an architect working in the old farm-house manner would wish. Lutyens never would have any of this compulsion at all. He planned his elevational effects from the outset. If the picture in his mind allowed only of very small windows, then additional windows had to be contrived 'round the corner, or the plan had to be made only one room thick at that point so as to allow of windows at the back. When I was young it used to be whispered in offices

that Sir Ernest George on first designing a house dashed off two sepia perspectives and a sketch plan of the ground floor only, leaving the rest to be worked out afterwards. I do not suppose the tale was true of George, and it certainly could never be true of Lutyens, whose plans have a scenic effectiveness that testifies to the working of his mind upon them from the beginning. But they are picture-maker's plans serving with greater fidelity pictorial needs than practical. And for what they are they are often superb . . .

In all these houses except the very earliest there are details here and there of a pronounced neo-classical flavour, often provokingly placed in exaggeratedly homespun surroundings. This sort of quaint incongruity, this sort of friendly slapping of the classics on the back reminds me of the school of sentiment represented in literature by the works of the late Sir James Barrie. It makes you cry, either with happiness or with vexation according to your idiosyncrasy; if it is to be done at all it could probably not be done better than Lutyens did it in the hall of Little Thakeham. In a big house built toward the end of his life he made the same joke through a mega-

phone, placing a large tetrastyle portico in the side of what looks rather like an enormous Normandy grange.

At first sight his uniformly neo-classic designs seem based upon another thesis than this, but if we analyse them we find that however demurely worn may be the livery of the great style, quaintness and fantasy are never far away . . .

The British Embassy at Washington is large without grandeur and has never, I think, been regarded as one of its author's successes . . .



The transcendent skill that Lutyens possessed in the pictorial combination of building forms and the lovely shaping of those forms in themselves was acquired in the practice of domestic architecture, and it is therefore upon his domestic architecture that any estimate of his total achievement must in the first place be founded. He worked in an age that was gradually losing all fixed standards of artistic propriety, but which was still susceptible to the poetry of form. With little law beyond his own mood, sometimes his own whim, he did, in his art everything he felt inclined to—suitable things,

unsuitable things, logical things, illogical things; and he did them all quite beautifully. In his many efforts to recapture completely the architectural atmosphere of the late seventeenth century he set himself a peculiarly difficult task, since in that atmosphere so many elements were accidental at the time and at any other time must be evoked artificially. The fascinating confluence of fine craftsmanship, sound and comely building materials, native tradition, French and Dutch fashions, that had mingled with the products of a brilliant and slightly perverse invention to produce what most Englishmen worship as WREN—that confluence, if a Wren Redivivus was to bring it together again, had to be all his own work from the start. This was sometimes Lutyens' undertaking, and so great were his powers and gusto that he often ran past his goal and improved upon his model . . .

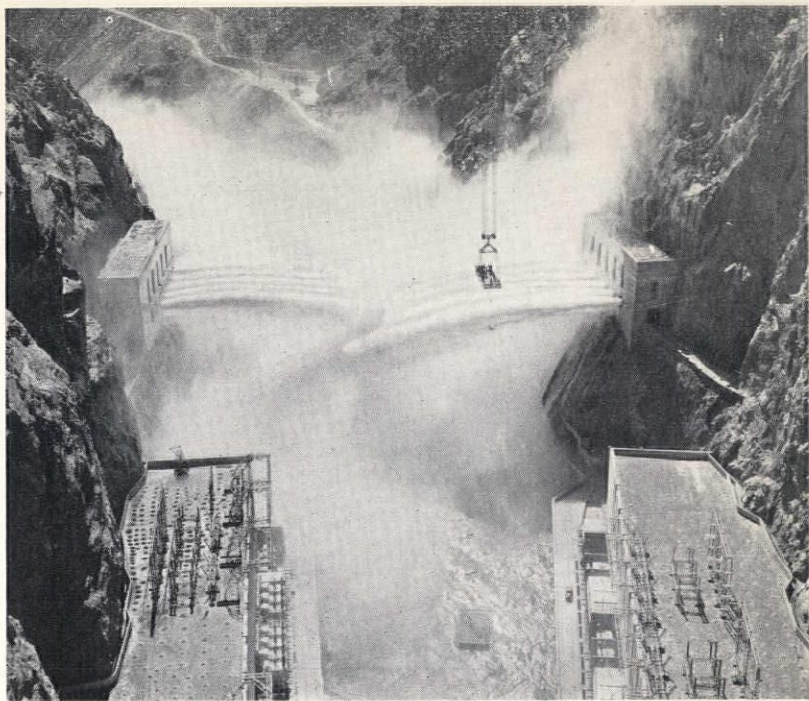
Lutyens sometimes let his great tenderness for the memory of Sir Christopher support him in small cognate naughtinesses. The design that he has left behind for a cathedral grander than St. Paul's is a miracle of self-assurance and consummate technique, and promises a wonder of Christendom. So

relatively small a part of the huge area covered will have any view of the High Altar that the conception may be said to be architecturally that of a pantheon, of a fusion of numerous very stately temples; in the central and largest of which will assemble the worshippers at the principal rite. When it is realised that that central temple can contain the congregation to be expected in a city of the size of Liverpool, the dimensions of the whole stagger the imagination.

To most of us the entire conception needs more intense study than has yet been possible before it can be critically judged. That its author should not be here to guide its realisation and growth is a major architectural tragedy.



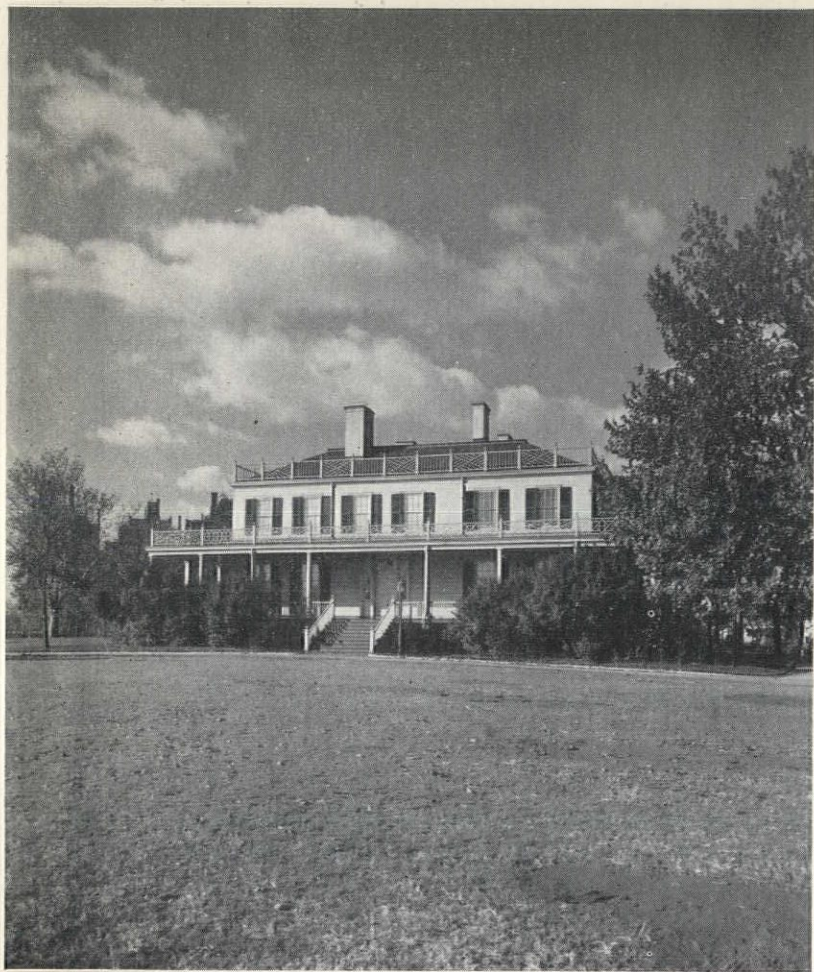
The largest undertaking that Lutyens brought to a conclusion was his share of the great works at New Delhi, where, in spite of the disasters that always seem to attend architectural collaborations, his personal achievement is of outstanding excellence. At Delhi there could be no country gables or Surrey carpentry to set off the solemnity of dome and portico—but charming, veiled, allusions to native architectural forms are



BOULDER DAM, COLORADO

Celebrating the fifth anniversary of the dam's birthday: an inspection of the needle valves from a platform suspended from the cable-way.

*Photograph by the Bureau of Reclamation*



*Do you know this building?*

THE GRACIE MANSION, NEW YORK CITY.  
Built 1799. Now the official residence of  
the Mayor of New York  
Photograph by courtesy of  
New York City Department of Parks

brought to serve the same purpose. The front of the Viceroy's House shows its designer's technique, and his peculiarities, at their highest. Nothing could be better done, and nobody else could have done just that thing.

It is unwise and unbecoming, when a distinguished man has just died, to compare his merits and achievements with those of men whose accounts have already been settled by history. That Lutyens' originality, invention, sensitiveness, and skill, were outstanding cannot I think be questioned, and these qualities in an artist are those that dazzle the most. He was always opposed to the school of architects that proclaims itself *Modern*, recognising in them a romanticism not genial, as his was; and self-deluded,

which his was not. He had the Renaissance—(and indeed the Victorian)—artist's exhibitionism, imposing his own artistic personality in season and out of season; and the personality was one that generally received a warm welcome. Whether by the reality of his buildings or by their photographic illustrations he gave to thousands of his generation happy dreams, and dreams were what they needed. He was a magician, a spell-binder, and few of us have not been in thrall to him. Those of us who had his friendship deeply grieve his loss. He seems to leave behind him a grey world, full of grim architectural Puritans on the one hand and gentleman-like architects who do the done thing on the other. He took Shaw's place, but who is to take his?

## Our Birth Rate Stops City Growth

*By Warren S. Thompson, Ph.D.*

DIRECTOR, SCRIPPS FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH IN POPULATION PROBLEMS

Excerpts from an address at the Boston University Institute, March 13, in a symposium on "Planning the City for the Post-War World."

THERE is one important change taking place in our population growth in the United States which will have its effect on city growth as well as on that of other parts of the country. This is the rapid slowing up of our population growth since about 1926. It is not in general realized that the number of births in the United

States declined about 680,000 between 1921 and 1933. After that the number began to increase somewhat but it did not again attain the number of 1921 until 1942—twenty-one years later.

The total number of births in 1942 was just slightly above that of 1921. The population of 1921 was approximately 108 million while the population in 1942 was a little under 134 million. Thus with 26 million more people we had no more births in 1942 than in 1921.

With this slowing up of population growth, it is inevitable that our cities cannot continue to grow as in the past. Also, the cities will soon begin to feel this slowing up of numbers in another way, namely, in the aging of their populations. Heretofore, the cities have had a very high proportion of young adults. This has had two effects: first, to keep the number and the rate of deaths very low, because young adults have such low death rates, and second, to keep the birth rates relatively high because most women, in these days of small families, bear their children when between twenty and thirty years of age.

The general consequence of these population changes will be to slow

up the growth of cities, to increase the death rates, and to lower the birth rates.

The large cities of today and their environs in nearly all of the industrialized West have birth rates too low to maintain their present numbers, and the lowest of these birth rates are found in the more comfortable economic and the better educated classes. It is true that suburban people, generally, though not always, have larger families than city people, but until more definite evidence is available we cannot be certain that the larger families in the suburbs are not to be explained by the movement of many couples with children to the suburbs rather than by a higher birth rate in the suburbs.



At present it can be safely said that there is no city in the United States having over 100,000 population that would maintain its numbers for two generations if it were deprived of migrants. Many of our smaller cities are in the same situation but to a lesser degree. It is generally true today that as the size of the community decreases the birth rate rises, and the only part of our population which is unquestionably replacing itself today is



the rural population. Even in the rural population the nonfarm group has a significantly lower rate of increase than the farm group.

The situation in which the city depended on the country for migration to keep up its numbers, to say nothing of adding to them, was not serious as long as only 10 to 20 per cent of the people lived in cities. The 80 to 90 per cent of country people could easily make up this deficit. Today, when more countries have half or more of their people living in cities, the situation is quite different.



Now we come rather suddenly to a form of urban society in which a large proportion of the women have no children (about 30 per cent), or only one child (about 20 per cent). This indicates the growth of a new scale of values in our urban community, since the evidence shows that a large proportion of all childlessness and of one-child families is voluntary. If it is not voluntary, it indicates a physiological degeneration which will soon prove fatal to urban groups. In either event, for any society to have its dominant classes—and no one will dispute the dom-

inance of the urban classes in our modern society—lose interest in reproduction and consequently in the future because they have little or no biological stake in it is, in my judgment, an extremely serious matter.

I am not a believer in the goodness of large or increasing numbers as such. But in a world which is getting crowded and where other nations because of their large and growing numbers are claiming, and are ready to fight for, larger "places in the sun," I am disturbed when such a large proportion of the people who have been treated most kindly by our society do not find anything in its ideals or in its traditions which is so worth perpetuating that they will raise children to carry on.

If the culture and refinement and comfort of modern cities mean so little to a large proportion of city dwellers that children are not worth while, then I am disposed to question the values developed by city living rather than the belief that life itself is worth carrying on. I am disposed to wonder whether the city has not blinded us to the meaning of life rather than to deny that life has a meaning.

# Hospital Design of Tomorrow

By Addison Erdman

The author was awarded an Edward Langley Scholarship by The Institute in 1939 for travel in the United States to visit and make a survey of the principal hospitals.

TRYING to make accurate predictions as to trends in the planning and construction of the hospital of tomorrow can become a very fascinating game, with a strong element of chance. While I am not always lucky at gambling, I am always willing to take a chance, which explains this rash effort at prophecy.

Some architects believe that there will be tremendous advances, involving radical changes. However, considering the slow, steady progress made after the last national catastrophies, World War I and the Depression, it is my opinion that these changes will not be revolutionary in character but rather a gradual outgrowth of developments in invention and medical discovery.

Many go so far as to advocate that, due to rapid functional changes, no hospital should be built today with the idea of lasting more than one or two generations. I consider this a questionable theory. There is no doubt that all hospitals in the future, even one-story

buildings, will be of fireproof construction, for the safety of patients and for lower fire insurance rates. The shell of a well-built, fireproof structure is good for an indefinite period. Worn-out pipes and ducts can be replaced and layouts modernized during its lifetime, within the outside walls and floors, without disturbing the structure. It will become standard practice to figure floor loads liberally enough to cover the possible future installation of heavier equipment; and, wherever possible, plumbing and heating lines will be located in corridor partitions or outside walls. This will facilitate the working out of future alterations to keep the hospital abreast of medical and technical advancement.

Also, I believe that there will not be any startling changes in hospital structures. Gradually all architects will become aware of the advantages of skeleton construction over wall-bearing, even for comparatively low buildings. These advantages include speed and efficiency in construction methods, and

flexibility of the structure for alterations. In the past, steel frames with comparatively smaller members proved more efficient than concrete frames in most localities. However, reinforced concrete construction, due to the improvements in engineering practice during the present war, will have more efficient concrete members with smaller sections, and doubtless will be able to compete favorably with steel in the future.

A mechanical feature that will be developed extensively in the future is panel heating for hospitals. Although it costs more to install than other types, panel heating will probably become the popular heating system, because maintenance is more economical and the radiant heat is pleasanter, more evenly distributed, and cleaner. Its simplification aids room decoration and sanitary finish, as there are no exposed pipes, radiators or valves. Also, if the heating panels are properly placed they will in no way interfere with alteration work. Moreover, panel heating will not conflict with ventilating or air conditioning systems.

Air conditioning for the entire hospital will be extensively developed, especially in warmer climates. By "air conditioning" I mean ven-

tilation by introducing clean, tempered or cooled, and humidified or de-humidified air as required, and the discarding of exhausted air. The type of system which recirculates the air will not be considered true air conditioning, and I believe that experience will prove that it is not a proper system for hospital use. Although it is cheaper to operate and maintain than true air conditioning, it may spread contaminated air throughout other parts of the hospital.

During the past twenty years, emphasis on an expression of functional planning has been the trend in hospital design. This has led to the suppression of exterior decoration and to simplification of design, so that modern hospitals appear as barrack-like and cold as factories or warehouses. I believe that this fad will be gradually corrected, and future designs will be based not only on functional building requirements but on the principle of good proportions, with beauty of form and color, surface textures and decorative features considered as essential elements, without returning to the over-elaboration of the past.

The many hospitalization and health insurance schemes which are becoming more popular all the

time will affect the layout of floor plans in hospitals. Present demands will continue for more and more private and semi-private rooms, which will be met in part by breaking up larger wards by means of curtains and glazed partitions to afford some degree of privacy, as this procedure will not unduly complicate nursing service.

There are two services that will probably be developed and extended for the benefit of the patient and his family. As patients are discharged from hospitals as soon as possible—often too soon—convalescent wards or cottages, where they can remain a few days to gather strength before going home, will undoubtedly be tried out more extensively. The other service that may be introduced in hospital planning is a nursery department, where healthy children may live while their mothers are patients in the hospital. Such improvements in hospital service may be financed by surplus funds of hospitalization insurance.

I think there will also be a trend toward allotting space in hospitals to individual doctors' offices, where they can hold consultation hours for their private patients and have the full hospital facilities con-

niently at hand for tests and diagnoses.

After the war many discharged soldiers, who live in communities remote from veterans' hospitals, may need the services of local voluntary hospitals. Perhaps arrangements will be made whereby these services can be paid for by the Government, so that the veteran will not have to be transported for treatment to a distant veterans' hospital. Furthermore, there will be some veterans who, after returning to civil life, will require hospitalization for chronic disease.

Due to the increased span of life, there will be a greater number than ever before of acute chronics, requiring hospitalization. This will also be made available for more of the under-privileged through the medium of industrial insurance and taxes. Therefore, I predict a trend toward enlarged accommodations for chronic cases.

A great many people working in war plants at present, and living away from home, will become accustomed to visiting industrial hospitals and health centers for the treatment of minor ailments and accidents that formerly would have been cared for at home. People will also become educated to con-

sider these as places for periodic examinations and check-ups while healthy. Health centers will be made part of large housing developments for the benefit of tenants, for preventing disease as well as curing illness.

Health centers will gather together the community's medical and dental services, combining the knowledge and experience of local practitioners for the benefit of the whole community. They will afford facilities for treatments, inoculations, vaccinations and all other means of preventing the spread of disease. In small communities the local hospital will become subordinate to the health center, and hospital cases will be sent to nearby centers with greater hospital facilities. In larger places the health center may be organized as part of the hospital, or there may be several of them scattered throughout a city with the hospital as the parent institution.

It is possible that the development of health centers will lead to a new type of progressive hospitalization procedure. As modern diagnostic facilities are becoming more complicated all the time, and too expensive for each individual physician to own and operate, particularly in rural districts, these

health centers will provide fifteen to sixty hospital beds with facilities for handling the simpler medical and surgical cases. They will operate as branches of county hospitals and as the headquarters for district health nursing services. The central or county hospital will have more elaborate facilities for diagnosis and treatment, with provisions for tuberculosis, chronic and contagious cases. It will include a nurses' training school. Where counties are not large enough to maintain efficient tuberculosis hospitals of their own, the state may be prevailed upon to build and maintain such an institution to serve several counties, and pro-rate the expense.

Supplementing the services of the county hospitals, there will be a large medical center of 1,000 to 3,000 beds located in a central city, with training schools for medical students, nurses, technicians and pharmacists. Thus, hospitalization will not only be close at hand for everyone in the state, but there will also be, within reasonable distances, progressively more extensive facilities for diagnosis and treatment than the small rural communities ordinarily can afford.

In rural or thinly populated districts, distances from the health

center or local hospital to the medical center will probably be so great that railroad and highway travel would be too much of a hardship for patients. Therefore it is easy to conceive of landing fields for air ambulances located alongside of the larger medical centers.

In conclusion I would like to emphasize that the patient's interests must be paramount in the planning and development of future hospitals. In recent years there has developed a tendency to subordinate essential requirements which are necessary for the welfare of the patient. For instance,

some planners are relying too much on artificial means of ventilation and lighting for patients' quarters. On the other hand, some advocate the use of glass brick walls or strip windows to enhance exterior design and to afford the maximum amount of natural light, which often proves to be too much of a good thing for bedrooms, especially during daytime rest periods, because of the difficulty of providing adequate shade from glaring sunlight. This unfortunate trend away from the patients' comfort must not be allowed to grow, and it will not if the architects are alert.



## Architects Read and Write



*Letters from readers—discussion, argumentative, corrective, even vituperative.*

### ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

THE article by Mr. Murphy ("What Are Architectural Students Being Taught?" February JOURNAL) in my opinion does not indicate the importance of all phases of the architect's education, and minimizes certain factors of increasing importance at this time.

For years the profession has protested the educational program of the schools of architecture because

the graduate did not have the necessary knowledge to step into the office and be of service. The result was that graduates received compensation for their first years of work below the level of clerks. The knowledge of such conditions has driven the best students from the schools and the profession. Only a well-organized course in construction and working draw-

ings can correct this condition.

I have no argument against a fine and comprehensive program of design in the schools. The school training in design is the background of all the architect's future work. It is of the utmost importance that cultural background be included in the school. The introduction of general planning, economics, sociology and business is a step forward. But if the profession had only this background it would become non-existent, for the public will always judge by standards which it knows; namely, how successful, mechanically, was the building?



Greater technical training and exhibits of ability by the profession in the field of building and construction will do more to raise public opinion of the value and importance of the architect than any publicity campaign ever inaugurated. Unless the architect of tomorrow has an excellent knowledge of construction and can provide better buildings, the position of the architect will be lower in the scale of public opinion than in the last decade.

Let us never lose sight of the fact that the architect is an artist;

let us never give the public the impression that he is not an artist, but finally, let us emphasize to the public that the architect is an expert in building construction and engineering, for that is what the public demands. — D. KENNETH SARGENT, Syracuse, N. Y.

#### THE SMALL HOUSE PROBLEM

MR. COLEAN makes a fair statement of the case for stock plans and limited services in his article in the February issue; at least so it seems to me. But after I agree with him within the limits that he covers I am still troubled with a sense that an exception should be made. I believe that Mr. Colean has not exhausted his subject. (He may skip to my final paragraphs if he wishes to know at once what I mean. By this method he will simultaneously avoid the intervening paragraphs of historical approach.)

Certainly the Architects' Small House Service Bureau did not succeed in selling its plan services. During the last two-thirds of its twelve years of existence only a few hundred plans were sold in total for the whole of that time. The Bureau tried to sell plans, but it was much more concerned with

selling the architect through its magazine and newspaper services, and in obtaining necessary operating funds by these means. It may as well be stated frankly that there was never a day when the cost of operations was carried by the sales of plans.

Likewise the Home Building Service Plan of the Federal Savings & Loan Associations came to nothing in spite of greatly improved product in terms of technology and a far better selling set-up. Even with the pressure of an agency of the Government behind it to make it go, this plan of stock plans and architects' supervision came to a complete dead end. There was also, as some will recall, a service known as the National Homes Finance Corporation of Chicago. That service was based on plans from any source, and supervision by a group of architects, and this also was a washout in the end from our point of view. The attempted collaboration in recent years between a committee of The Producer's Council and The Institute of Architects was labor lost, principally because no acceptable pattern could be found for a program of operations that made stock plans and architects' supervision available to building

material dealers, through whom it was proposed to merchandise the service.

The concept of a company of architects turning out stock plans for the choice of intending home builders seems not to work as a practical matter, because people prefer the reality of buying a house they can see to the uncertainty of blue prints they comprehend only faintly. And since more than 90% (by the last figures we took) of all small houses are built for the ready-to-move-in speculative market, one observes how few houses there are to build by any other method.

I, for one, wish that we could accept as true that people—home builders or contractors—will not stumble over an architect if they think they can get what they want without him. They will not buy his complete private service while there remains this great reservoir of cute little Colonials to set their emotions afloat.



What can we do about it?

I agree with Mr. Colean that the way of stock plans and supervisory services under the promotion of architects is a waste, and that it is likely to continue to be a



waste. I should like to say also that I hope most fervently that we will never again try to make anything of them as a means of expanding the usefulness of the private architect.

I said at the beginning that I thought Mr. Colean did not exhaust his subject. I think he did not do so in a very important particular; that is to say, in respect to the employment of private architects, on a fee basis, to perform most of the functions now assigned to the salaried personnel of the FHA.

Is there anyone among us who, drifting through the depression era at his wits' end to make a living, did not learn to rely upon the supervisory service of the HOLC? If there is anyone who has forgotten that, let me remind him that that program, designed by Don McNeal and a few others of the HOLC Reconditioning Division, provided for the qualification of architects in every community where there was an appreciable

reconditioning load. These architects were employed on a fee basis to "case" these jobs and to carry them through under inspection technique precised by the Governmental agency. There were planned routes of houses in process; time losses were minimized; fees were low per case but well worthy of the architect's attention in the aggregate.

It may be that some will say that architects will not long be interested in a service of this kind, which inherently does not invite much of their talents and which is likely to be left dangling whenever there is something better to do. This may be. I do not happen to believe it. I believe that young architects would welcome the opportunity to become fee inspectors under a Federal Housing Administration setup.

There are many of us, I know, who will be interested in Mr. Colean's answer to this proposal. I have hoped for many years that he would do so.—ROBERT T. JONES, Minneapolis.

"BUILDINGS are the books that everybody unconsciously reads; and if they are a libel on the laws of architecture, they will surely vitiate in time the taste of those who become familiarized to their deformity."—CHARLES B. FAIRBANKS (1827-59).

## Books & Bulletins

**THE HOUSING MARKET IN NEW YORK CITY.** By Herbert S. Swan, industrial consultant. A study made for the Institute of Public Administration. 210 pp. 6 by 9 in. New York: 1944: Reinhold Publishing Corp. \$2.

Do building costs control new construction? In what degree is luxury housing likely to decrease in post-War years? What is the potential market relationship between ownership and renting? How does building for the upper brackets cause neighborhood instability? How marked is the trend toward lower cost houses? Questions of this sort are among the scores that have been explored in this book, with the answers in many cases brought into tabular form. New York City's market, it is true, has wide variations from those of other communities, but it also has a broader base for factual answers to such searching questions as have here been given the subject.

**AMERICAN STANDARD BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR MASONRY.** A41.1-1944. Formulated by a representative Sectional Committee under ASA

procedure, with the National Bureau of Standards as sponsor. 34 pp. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  by 10 $\frac{3}{4}$  in. New York: 1944: American Standards Association, 29 W. 39th St., New York 18, N. Y. 50c.

This Standard deals with recommended building code requirements for non-reinforced masonry. A bibliography is included relating to the properties, performance and tests of masonry materials.

**NATIONAL BUILDING CODE.** Prepared under the joint sponsorship of the National Housing Administration Department of Finance and the Codes and Specifications Section, National Research Council of Canada. 422 pp. 6 by 9 in. Ottawa, Canada: National Research Council. \$1.

The work of many minds, extending over about six years, in the conviction that a model code could be drawn to serve as a pattern for Canada. It is in five parts: administrative requirements, definitions, structural requirements, fire protection, and regulations in the interest of health and sanitation. With the purpose of facili-

tating the introduction of new methods of construction, a section reads: "Materials and methods of construction not specifically regulated by this Code may be permitted provided their suitability

and safe working stresses have been *approved* by the *authority having jurisdiction* on the basis of laboratory tests carried out by a publicly owned or other recognized laboratory."

## New Members of The Producers' Council

**R**ECENTLY elected to membership in The Council are the following, with the name of their Official Representative:

The American Gas Association, New York City; J. W. West, Jr. Assistant Managing Director; and F. W. Williams, Assistant Secretary of the Residential Section, Alternate.

Certain-teed Products Corporation, Chicago; R. R. Galloway, Vice-President in Charge of Distribution.

Trumbull Electric Manufactur-

ing Company, Plainville, Conn.; R. C. Graves, Director of Sales.

Edison Electric Institute, New York City; C. E. Greenwood, Commercial Director.

H. E. Fletcher Company, West Chelmsford, Mass.; Harold H. Fletcher, President.

Lightolier Company, New York City; J. H. Blitzer, Vice-President, and D. Theodore Berk, Alternate.

Steel Locker Council, Cleveland, Ohio; R. P. Dryer, Executive Vice-President.

## Highlights of the Technical Press

*The Architectural Record*, Mar.: Two-story Demountable Multi-family Projects for Washington, D. C.; Holden, McLaughlin & Associates, architects; 7 pp. t. & ill. Building Types Study—Schools, prepared in collaboration with *The Nation's Schools*; 22 pp. t. & ill.

Noise Reduction, a Time-Saver Standard on Acoustical Materials—their selection and use, by Harold R. Sleeper; 9 pp. t. & ill.

*The Architectural Forum*, Mar.: Channel Heights Housing Project, San Pedro, Calif.; Richard J. Neutra, architect; 10 pp. t. & ill.

Planning the Post-War House, III; 6 pp. t. & ill. Planning With You—Louisville, Ky.; 3 pp. t. & ill. Three Offices; 9 pp. t., ill. & det. dwgs.

*Civil Engineering*, Mar: Aircraft Assembly Plant, Marietta, Ga., by R. W. Stuck and A. G. Stanford; Robert and Company Associates, architect-engineer-manager; 8 pp. t. & ill. Collective Bargaining Plans Discussed at A.S.C.E. Annual Meeting in New York—stenographic notes; 4½ pp.

*Pencil Points*, Feb.: Detroit and the Detroit Area, Parts 5, 6, 7, by J. Davidson Stephen; 8 pp. t. & ill. Insolation and House Design, by Howard M. Sloan; George

Fred Keck, architect; 6 pp., t. & ill. March: War Plants by Alonzo J. Harriman, architect-engineer; by Albert Kahn Associated Architects and Engineers, Inc.; by Walter Kidde, Inc., engineers and builders; by J. Floyd Yewell, architect; and by Francis W. Roubush, Hugh McDonald Martin, architects; 20 pp. t. & ill. Industrial Lighting Practice, by Cecil I. Cady, engineer of the firm of Voorhees, Walker, Foley & Smith; 6 pp. t. & ill. Planning Is Politics, but Are Planners Politicians?, by Catherine Bauer; 5 pp. t. & ill.

*Southwest Builder and Contractor*, Mar. 17: Construction Methods in India, by Capt. Henry Friedman, C. E.; 2 pp. t. & ill.

## The Editor's Asides

I HOPE no one is taking too literally that portrait of Pierre L'Enfant on the March cover. As a matter of fact, no likeness of the Major exists, so far as we know. Leon Chatelain made a bas-relief on a Chevy Chase bank, and in it presumably blended all the information he could get, together with his own conception of a representative Gallic profile. It is from

this marble bas-relief on its circular field that a legend is in process of growth.



THE ARCHITECTS in private practice say, "Public buildings should be designed by private architects." Certain Government departments say, "First give us a formula for selecting them."

How would you go about it? In New York several years ago a "Mayor's List" was drawn up—some 35 names of architects well qualified to do the City's work. Each year the list has been increased; this year it contains 135 names. In a few more years it may duplicate the classified telephone directory. Evidently that isn't the answer.

One suggestion is that, if an architect is wanted to design a hospital, give the authorities a list of architects who have designed hospitals and let the records speak for them. To which one authority objects, "I don't want an architect whose best hospitals may have been designed twenty years ago; I'd rather entrust the job to a man who realizes that he knows nothing of hospital design and is therefore going to work his fingers to the bone finding ways to avoid the faults and shortcomings of even the most up-to-date hospitals."

At the risk of having to dodge a few missiles, I open the record of A.I.A. resolutions and quote from one on the subject of architects for public works adopted by the New Orleans Convention in May, 1938: ". . . That this Convention reaffirms the long-standing policy of The American Institute of Ar-

chitects recognizing the direct selection of qualified architects and the selection of architects by means of properly regulated competitions as alternate methods."

OUR NOTE under Educational Announcements in the March JOURNAL as to the Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship failed to make the point that, beside being open to Illinois graduates of the College of Fine and Applied Arts, it is open to anyone whose undergraduate preparation in architecture is the equivalent of that attainable by graduation from the University of Illinois.

NON-OBJECTIVE ART is to be housed in an objective museum on Fifth Avenue at Eighty-Ninth Street, New York. Frank Lloyd Wright is designing the setting for the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, and Baroness Hilda Rebay, trustee and curator of the Foundation, says that "the nearly 900 works of art are to be built into the structure." We'll have until after the War to prepare ourselves for what we shall see.

TWO, AND PERHAPS EVEN THREE GENERATIONS of architects will feel a keen sense of personal

loss in the death of David Knickerbacker Boyd. Having made a reputation for his executed buildings soon after the turn of the century, he turned his great energies to standardization of materials, building codes, better organization of the profession and, more recently, to making better known by the public the architects' function and abilities. A partial list of offices to which he was elected by his contemporaries, of committees to which he gave enthusiastic service, would more than fill this page. It would be hard to name any American architect of our time who has given so unstintingly of his time and energy to cooperative effort for the good of society.

ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION has lost a sturdy pillar in the death of Professor Clarence A. Martin, who for nearly forty years was a member of Cornell's architectural faculty. He was a founder of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and for more than ten years its secretary-treasurer. Many of us owe much to his "Details of Building Construction," published in 1899—the forerunner of all our present-day books on drafting-room standards. One of his last activities—characteristic of

the man—was to volunteer for drafting service on ship design, working alongside of much younger men who owed to his teaching a large part of their own capabilities.

THOSE WHO ATTEND an A.I.A. Convention in early life usually become habitués—it just isn't among those things that the architect can take or leave alone. Once inoculated with the virus, neither poverty nor riches, war nor depression, client nor contractor, gas rationing nor over-taxed railroads will keep him from indulgence. Great effort and much time is spent in arranging a program for these three or four days, but I have a suspicion that the total abandonment of program-making would affect the attendance not one whit. Our seasoned habitué doesn't go to these annual meetings for the pleasure he gets out of altering by-laws or listening to committee reports; he goes to see and talk with old friends—and new ones—that he meets only on these occasions, friends that bring him a true cross-section of his profession in America. This year's meeting has had to be cancelled, for reasons closely connected with the public welfare, but there's another year—a better year—coming.

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